

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,880,081 to Itkis ("*Itkis*"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,683 to Harada et al. ("*Harada*") and U.S. Patent No. 6,240,188 to Dondeti et al. ("*Dondeti*"), or as obvious over *Itkis*, in view of *Harada*, *Dondeti* and *Lotspiech* (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,873).

The combined teachings of *Itkis*, *Harada*, *Dondeti* and *Lotspiech* fail to teach or suggest the invention as recited in the presently pending claims. None of the references cited by the examiner to reject the claims teaches using a generation number as recited in Claim 34 to determine whether it is necessary to decrypt a key block corresponding to the generation number to obtain the decryption key.

Similar recitations are provided in all other independent claims of the application.

Support for the present amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0146] through [0148] and [0131] through [0135] of the Specification and FIGS. 15 and 16.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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